decision of Gujarat High court criticising telecast of indecent programme in different T.V. channels during late night;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy of censor board has been criticised by the High court; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The High Court of Gujarat in its judgement delivered on 4.9.96 in Criminal Appeal No. 716 of 1995 with Criminal Appeal No. 912 of 1995 filed in the case pertaining to Dharmendra Dhirajlal Soneji versus State of Gujarat in connection with rape committed by Accused—Dharmendra Dhirajlal Soneji, aged 20 years—had inter-alia made general observations that obscene films and programmes shown on the media including TV channels contribute to corrupt the minds of people, especially younger generations who tend to commit crimes like rape and that appropriate steps must be taken to prevent exhibition/telecast of obscene films and advertisements more particularly on TV. There has, however, been no specific criticism of the policies of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

(d) Detailed guidelines have been issued by the Central Government to the CBFC with regard to certification of films.

Passenger Amenities In Long Route Trains

*579 SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the passenger amenities in long route trains as well as stations have deteriorated since last one year;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this connection so far;

(c) whether surprise checks have also been conducted by him and officials of Railway Board in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 3003 complaints were received in connection with passenger amenity items during 1996-97 (upto Feb. '97).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Surprise checks have been conducted at different stations and passenger trains.

(e) Zonal Railways have been directed to formulate perspective plans for provision of passenger amenities so that these could be provided/augmented in a phased manner.

The complaints have been examined and remedial action taken, wherever necessary. Staff found responsible for negligence are taken up and penalised under disciplinary and appeal rules for railway employees.

Programmes on 50th Anniversary of India's Independence

*580. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast special programmes on the 50th anniversary of India's Independence and the centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government have approached BBC for permission to telecast in India 'Enemy of Empire' a commendable documentary film on Netaji Bose Produc ed by BBC;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether any committee has been set up in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the criterion for finalising the programmes related with freedom struggle?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of special programmes, to be telecast on DD-I, DD-II & DD-III and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon are given in the attached Statement-I and II respectively. A documentary on Netaji Subash Chandra Bose produced by Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta has already been telecast on 23rd January, 1997 from DD-I. The information in respect of the programmes to be telecast from the regional Kendras is being collected.

(c) No, Sir. The Producer has not yet made the offer to Doordarshan.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A committee under the Chairmanship of Director General: Doordarshan and all Programme Deputy Director Generals was formed to approve the themes and Programmes on 50th anniversary of India's Independence.

(g) The selection of programmes either in the commissioned category or in the sponsored category is in accordance with the laid down guidelines in the Sponsored/ Commissioned Programme Schemes of Doordarshan.